



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2025

CONTACT: Jeff LeMaster

(501) 683-1532

jeff.lemaster@arkansasag.gov

Attorney General Griffin Announces Arrest of Jacksonville Man on 461 Counts of Child Pornography Charges

Griffin: 'It grieves me each time we learn of children being exploited this way, and I am resolved to bring justice to these perpetrators'

LITTLE ROCK – Attorney General Tim Griffin released the following statement announcing the arrest of Michael Edwards, 24, of Jacksonville on charges related to possession of child sexual abuse materials (CSAM):

“Thanks to four related cybertips that came in through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), investigators in my Special Investigations Division executed a search warrant at Michael Edwards’s home on March 12, with the assistance of the Lonoke County Sheriff’s Office. We seized multiple electronic devices, and forensic analysis revealed 461 files of CSAM content.

“Edwards turned himself in today and was charged with 461 counts of Pandering or Possessing Visual or Print Medium Depicting Sexually Explicit Conduct Involving Children, all Class C Felonies.

“I am grateful to my Special Investigations Division for their excellent work on this case and to the Lonoke County Sheriff’s Office for their assistance. It grieves me each time we learn of children being exploited this way, and I am resolved to bring justice to these perpetrators.”

About Attorney General Tim Griffin

Tim Griffin was sworn in as the 57th Attorney General of Arkansas on January 10, 2023, having previously served as the state's 20th Lieutenant Governor from 2015-2023. From 2011-2015, Griffin served as the 24th representative of Arkansas's Second Congressional District, where he served on the House Committee on Ways and Means, House Armed Services Committee, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Committee on Ethics and House Committee on the Judiciary while also serving as a Deputy Whip for the Majority.

Griffin is currently an officer in the Arkansas Army National Guard and holds the rank of colonel. Griffin served as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps for more than 28 years. In 2005, Griffin was mobilized to active duty as an Army prosecutor at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and served with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Mosul, Iraq.

His previous assignments include serving as the Commander of the 2d Legal Operations Detachment in New Orleans, Louisiana; the Commander of the 134th Legal Operations Detachment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and as a Senior Legislative Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the Pentagon. Griffin earned a master's degree in strategic studies as a Distinguished Honor Graduate from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Griffin also served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Political Affairs for President George W. Bush; Special Assistant to Assistant Attorney General Michael Chertoff, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Arkansas; Senior Investigative Counsel, Government Reform and Oversight Committee, U.S. House of Representatives; and Associate Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel David M. Barrett, In re: HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros.

Griffin is a graduate of Magnolia High School, Hendrix College in Conway, and Tulane Law School in New Orleans. He attended graduate school at Oxford University. He is admitted to practice law in Arkansas (active) and Louisiana (inactive). Griffin lives in Little Rock with his wife, Elizabeth, a Camden native, and their three children.

###